SLA-Type Letter Sent To Senator

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Sen. Frank Church (D-Idaho) has received a threatening letter signed with the name used by a figure in the West Coast kidnaping of Patricia Hearst.

The mimeographed letter, signed "Field Marshal Cinque," was received at Church's Boise office in a pre-canceled envelope yesterday morning. Church's aides in Boise turned it over to the FBI, which said it was studying the letter for possible violations of federal law.

Church's office said it doesn't know who sent the letter or whether the sender is involved in the kidnaping.

"Field Marshal Cinque" was the name used by the speaker on tape recordings addressed to publisher Randolph A. Hearst outlining the Symbionese Liberation Army's conditions for release of Miss Hearst, abducted in Berkeley, Calif., Feb. 4.

The document sent to Church makes no demands on the senator, who has been a strong backer of civil-rights legislation throughout his Senate career. But it ends, "I am that nigger that hunts you now."

It reads: "You should also demonstrate that you are not only concerned with freeing and making a better life for all people. However, you have seemingly said by your actions that you know me and therefore you do not have to repent for your crimes. However, to this I will say, you do indeed know me, you have always known me. I am that nigger you have hunted and feared night and day. I am that nigger you have killed hundreds of my people in a vain hope of [unreadable]. I am the nigger that is no longer just hunted, robbed and murdered. I am that nigger that hunts you now. [signed] "Field Marshal Cinque."

Over the weekend, five New England governors said they had received letters purportedly from the SLA. Those letters, like the one to Church, were similar to the last SLA communication to the Hearsts.

In San Francisco yesterday, Miss Hearst's kidnapers ignored a weekend plea from her parents that their daughter be allowed to send a note or tape recording to them.